

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated June 5, 2003. Claims 1 and 13 are pending in this application. Claims 2-12 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claim 1 is an independent claim that has been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent Application EP 0 726 591 A1 (Suzuki '591) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,849,674 (Cherry et al.) and European Patent Application EP 0 729 168 (Suzuki '168).

Claim 1, as amended, recites a method for producing an electron source comprised of plural electron emission devices, each of which has a gap and is provided with a deposit at the gap. The plural electron emission devices are connected in a matrix, by plural row wirings and plural column wirings. The method for producing the electron source comprises a connecting step for connecting plural pre-elements that are precursors of the plural electron emission devices to the plural row wirings, respectively. In addition, the method includes a voltage applying and working step which comprises a sub-step of selecting simultaneously certain plural row wirings that are not adjacent to each other and applying a voltage to the certain plural row wirings selected simultaneously, within an atmosphere containing an organic gas. The sub-step is conducted repeatedly and successively for plural groups of the certain row wirings, thereby depositing the deposit. There is also a succeeding step of conducting a same process step as the voltage applying and working step for non-selected ones of the plural row wirings.

Suzuki '591, as understood by Applicant, relates to a method of manufacturing an electron-beam source where activation generates activation material at a plurality of electron-emitting devices, by dividing the plurality of electron-emitting devices into plural groups and sequentially applying voltage to each group. However, nothing has been found in Suzuki '591 that would teach or suggest a method in the context of the features of Claim 1, that includes depositing a deposit by voltage application within an atmosphere containing an organic gas. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over Suzuki '591.

The Office Action cites Cherry et al. for teaching "an activation process comprising dividing the row wirings into 16 groups of row wirings with adjacent wires of each group spaced apart 16 rows so that the nth and n+1th groups of wires activated in succession can be spaced apart from each other." Furthermore, the Office Action cites Suzuki '168 for teaching "that plural groups (columns) could be selected and the pulse forming voltage applied successively to the groups sequentially in a 'zigzag manner' to avoid excessive heating of the central portion of the substrate during the creation of an electron emissive device...." However, unlike Claim 1, neither Cherry et al. nor Suzuki '168 teaches or suggests a method in the context of the features of Claim 1, including depositing a deposit by voltage application within an atmosphere containing an organic gas. For at least this reason, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over Cherry et al. and Suzuki '168.

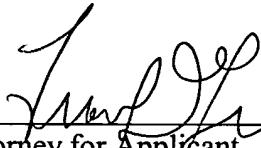
Moreover, Applicant submits that, at least for the reasons discussed above, the proposed combination of Suzuki '591, Cherry et al., and Suzuki '168, assuming that such a combination would even be permissible, also would fail to teach or suggest a method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein a deposit is deposited as a result of a voltage application within an atmosphere containing an organic gas. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over this prior art, whether taken separately or in combination.

Claim 13 depends from Claim 1, and is believed to be patentable over those references for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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